

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

TO THE

GARSTANG UNION

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

For the Year 1895.

With Instructions for Preventing the Spread of Infectious
Diseases.



GARSTANG:

H. WRIGHTSON, PRINTER AND STATIONER, POST OFFICE.

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

TO THE

GARSTANG UNION

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL


For the Year 1895.

With Instructions for Preventing the Spread of Infectious
Diseases.



GARSTANG:

H. WRIGHTSON, PRINTER AND STATIONER, POST OFFICE.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29253950>

GARSTANG

Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

The Annual Report for 1895, which I have now the honour to lay before you, is one extremely satisfactory, the immunity from infectious disease in your district is unprecedented, and is a leading feature of the year's work.

The number reported under the Notification Act is 24, as against 47 in 1894, and 65 in 1893.

In no instance has any infectious disease spread during the past year to any adjacent dwelling.

Effective isolation and disinfection have been carried out with the above satisfactory results.

The following are the reported infectious cases :

1st.	Scarlet Fever.....	3
2nd.	Diphtheria.....	10
3rd.	Typhoid	5
4th.	Erysipelas.....	4
5th.	Croup.....	2
Total.....		<hr/> 24 <hr/>

Considering your population and scattered area, the above list is a remarkable one, and certainly has no record to touch it during the past thirteen years I have been your Medical Officer.

Upon examining these infectious outbreaks they show a very scattered dissemination, occurring in twelve different townships, leaving eleven townships entirely free from infection during the past year.

The following are the Townships with their respective notified infectious cases :—Out Rawcliffe, 3 ; Nateby, 2 ; St. Michael's, 1 ; Winmarleigh, 1 ; Great Ecclestone, 2 ; Myerscough, 2 ; Garstang, 2 ; Pilling, 3 ; Presall (Knot-End), 3 ; Claughton, 1 ; Barnacre, 3 ; Forton, 1.

A glance at the map of your District will at once show how scattered have been these different infectious diseases, and further, if careful and rigid instructions had not been carried out, how the different diseases might have infected the whole of your Sanitary area.

The cases of Scarlet Fever I was unable to trace. They occurred early on in the year, the last outbreak being in March.

Diphtheria and Membranous Croup are responsible for just one half of the total and in most of these cases marked Sanitary defects were found.

The deaths from infectious cases are equally low, and are only four :—Diphtheria, 3 ; Croup, 1 ; Total 4.

There has not been a single case of Smallpox, Typhus, Relapsing, Continued or Puerperal Fever.

GENERAL REMARKS.

GENERAL REMARKS ON THE SANITARY STATE OF YOUR DISTRICT.

I append herewith the Inspector's Report in a short concise form.

Gentlemen,

I herewith beg to present you with my Annual Report for the Garstang Union.

I have attended the following infectious cases :—Scarlet Fever 3, Erysipelas 4, Typhoid 5, Croup 2, Diphtheria 10.

The following are the various improvements made :—

New Houses built	17
Old Houses Restored	6
New Houses in course of erection	15
New Wells sunk	4
Old Wells cleansed	7
Number of Inspections made	211

The Lodging Houses have been regularly inspected, and are kept in good condition.

The Slaughter-houses are also well kept, although there are some being improved with regard to floors, walls and drainage, which have in future to be registered.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM JEMSON.

The report shows a creditable amount of work done.

The great difficulty experienced in your District is the aversion or delay in carrying out the law, the great tendency is to set aside any notice given by the Inspector, and if possible avoid or delay, as long as possible, the work ordered to be done.

This often entails increased work both for the Inspector and myself, as well as for your Council.

In my opinion more prompt action is required in general so that the public may thoroughly realize what a powerful machine Sanitary law is, and that it ought to be complied with without unnecessary delay.

On examination of the work during the past year, I think that Barnacre Parish Council has been particularly assiduous in calling your attention to existing Sanitary defects. Landskill and Calder Vale have been specially investigated, the sanitary condition of the latter place being highly dangerous during the dry season of the year. The pollution of the Mill Dams and the Calder adding much to the dangers of the locality. The existing conditions here should not be allowed to remain, and at a suitable time prompt action should be taken to remove the existing dangers and prevent the possibility of future recurrence. The connections with the main sewer here should be completed without further delay.

CATTERALL.

The proposed Sanitary scheme for this Township makes no progress, the Parish Council having apparently decided not to proceed.

FORTON.

Some important scheme for this Township has been under your consideration for some time and it is likely now that something will be done.

GARSTANG.

Here the drainage has been improved. Some complaints have been lodged with regard to the indifferent scavenging of this Township by the Contractor.

GREAT ECCLESTON.

This Village is to be re-sewered, and the work to be done has been confirmed by a Parish Meeting, and will be proceeded with forthwith.

The Fylde Water Company is expected to supply this place with their water at an early date.

INSKIP-WITH-SOWERBY.

Some good cottages have been erected here. Several old ones I have condemned.

OUT RAWCLIFFE.

Many improvements have taken place in this Township, but there is a general want of some good cottages for the labouring classes. Many existing now are thatched, with small rooms, bad ventilation, and little sanitation.

UPPER RAWCLIFFE-WITH-TARNACRE.

Marked drainage improvements have taken place in this Township, particularly in the Village of St. Michael's-on-Wyre.

The County Authorities have made important improvements here.

HAMBLETON.

Very special complaints have been made in this Township, and a Special Committee visited this village and presented a report.

In my opinion nothing short of a good drainage scheme will thoroughly remove the existing sanitary defects.

PILLING.

Continued progress is taking place in this Township, but there are several cottages which are not fit for habitation, they will in due season be disinhabited and new ones erected.

PREESALL-WITH-HACKENSALL (KNOT-END).

Special attention has been paid to this Township, and at present a competent engineer is preparing a scheme for this locality. Good drainage and water supply is of the utmost importance for the future prospects of this locality.

In reviewing the general sanitary state of your District, the work of the past year shows continued marked progress in many parts of your District. Some interest has been taken by some Parish Councils in their general Sanitary surroundings, but not to the same extent as might have been expected. Parish Councils are averse in general to any increased expenditure which will raise the local rates. This can hardly be wondered at during the present state of agricultural depression. Yet, in my opinion, most public and local authorities and their respective populations derive a greater benefit from a Sanitary Rate than any other rate that the law has given power to levy. The loss of life and suffering, as well as money, brought about by preventable disease, has been observed on many occasions within your District, and bears no comparison to a small Sanitary Rate levied over a large area.

I am convinced, that money judiciously and wisely spent, in permanent good Sanitary improvements, is a sound investment, and will bring a return sooner or later of improved health, prolonged lives and an increased exchequer, public or private.

The sooner all public bodies, Rural or Urban, recognize this important fact, viz. :—"That immunity from Preventible disease can be purchased, and that such a purchase is sound."

I would therefore advise that every Parish Council within your District should set to work to place their respective Parishes in a thorough Sanitary condition, this, with your assistance, is within their sphere of action. The policy of doing nothing is disastrous, whether considered financially or in a Public Health point of view. Progression in preventive medicine is sure, confirmed by facts, and the more we see of it the more we shall learn, and become convinced of its importance.

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

Population.	Townships.	Deaths.	Rate per 1000
1113	Barnacre-with-Bonds	19	17.07
176	Bilsborrow	2	11.36
402	Bleasdale	5	12.43
179	Cabus.....	7	39.10
336	Catterall	5	14.88
575	Claughton.....	5	8.69
65	Cleveley.....	Nil.	
560	Forton	13	23.21
856	Garstang	10	11.68
553	Great Eccleston	8	14.46
367	Hambleton	4	10.89
25	Holleth	Nil.	
504	Inskip-with-Sowerby	7	13.88
337	Kirkland	6	17.80
395	Myerscough	9	22.78
350	Nateby	3	8.57
789	Nether Wyresdale	4	5.06
721	Out Rawcliffe	9	12.48
1480	Pilling	26	17.56
896	Preesall-with-Hackensall	16	17.85
502	Stalmine-with-Staynall	7	13.94
599	Upper Rawcliffe-with-Tarnacre...	11	18.36
371	Winmarleigh	2	5.39

The Death Rates for the Three Registration Districts are :

Garstang.....	80 deaths,	13.04 per 1000.
Stalmine.....	53	„ 16.30 „
St. Michael's	46	„ 16.59 „
<hr/>		
Total.....	179	14.73
for the whole District.		

BIRTHS.

The following Births have been registered according to the Registration Districts :—

Garstang.....	129 births,	i.e. 21.02 per 1000
Stalmine.....	101	„ 31.12 „
St. Michael's	65	„ 23.44 „
<hr/>		
Total.....	295	24.27

for the whole District.

The following four are the only deaths from Zymotic Disease :—

Croup	1
Diphtheria	3

Total	4	.329 per 1000
-------------	---	---------------

CABUS, FORTON AND MYERSCOUGH.

Cabus, Forton and Myerscough possess the highest Death Rate this year. Cleveley and Holleth without a death at all.

This concludes my Report for the past year, and I beg to thank you for your continued and prolonged labours in the Sanitary work of your District, which year by year continues to increase.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

THOMAS FISHER,

Medical Officer of Health.

February 11th, 1896.



TYPHOID FEVER.

Rules for Infected Dwellings.

This disease, which is of an infectious nature, is easily prevented from spreading if proper means be taken to remove the original source of infection, to isolate the patients, and to destroy all the emanations from their person, and I recommend the following rules :—

1.—If a case of Enteric, Typhoid, Gastric or Low Fever (different names applied to the same disease) appear in your house, send immediate information thereof to the Medical Officer of Health for the district.

2.—Have your house inspected by a competent person, and make sure that no sewer or drain gas can enter into part of it.

3.—Have your water supply for domestic use examined, and if in the slightest degree contaminated with sewage matter, immediately discontinue the use of it. Rain water received in cisterns or barrels above ground, and filtered through a common charcoal filter, is always safe. Water contaminated with sewage derived from an infected source is one of the most common causes of this disease.

4.—Let the patient be isolated in a well-ventilated room, without carpets and curtains, and if possible, at the top of the house.

5.—Let all discharges from the patient, especially those from the bowels, be received into a disinfectant; the most convenient being Calvert's Carbolic Powder. A piece of Gutta-percha Sheeting or Oil-cloth should be placed under the blanket to prevent the discharges soaking into the bed.

6.—The bed and body linen, and all other infected clothing, should be plunged in water containing 8 tablespoonfuls of Calvert's Carbolic Acid to every gallon of water, and afterwards boiled before being washed.

7.—Attendants on the sick should be scrupulously clean, and frequently wash their hands with a disinfectant, and they should carefully abstain from touching any article used for the food of man, such as milk, etc. Their personal clothing should be treated as infected articles.

8.—Any article of food which has been exposed to infection in the patients' room should, when not consumed by the patient, be destroyed.

9.—Every closet in the house, and every eject leading into a drain, should be disinfected twice daily by throwing into it a handful of green copperas. As the germs of this disease are most generally disseminated by means of the drains, every system of drains receiving the evacuations of a Typhoid patient should be kept constantly charged with this inexpensive chemical.

10.—As some persons, from peculiarity of constitution, take this disease in an extremely mild form, hardly recognisable as Fever, all

persons residing in a house containing a Typhoid patient, who are suffering from the slightest indisposition, and especially if it is attended with Diarrhœa, should confine themselves to the house, treat their own evacuations as infected, and scrupulously abstain from using their neighbours' closets. Persons of this class are often the means of spreading this and other diseases in public factories where closets are used in common. All such closets should at all times be flushed and disinfected twice daily.

11.—Good ventilation is the best disinfectant of the air of the sick room.

12.—As soon after recovery as the patient is able to bear it, he should take a tepid bath, or be washed with warm water and Carbolic Acid Soap; he may then re-enter the family with safety.

13.—On the recovery or removal of a patient, all floors, walls and ceilings should be fumigated, scraped and cleaned. For fumigating infected rooms and their contents, nothing is better than sulphur. A quarter-of-a-pound of brimstone, broken into small pieces, should be put into an iron dish (or the lid of an iron saucepan turned upside down), supported by a pair of tongs over a bucket of water. The chimney and other openings are then closed with paper pasted on, and a shovelful of live coals to put upon the brimstone. The door is then quickly shut, the crevices covered with paper and paste, and the room kept closed for six or seven hours. After this a thorough cleansing should be effected; everything washable should be washed and all other things be cleansed by proper means.

14.—Any further advice of a public character required for carrying out the above, or other Sanitary precautions, will be given on application to the Medical Officer of health, or Inspector of Nuisances of the District.

SCARLET FEVER AND DIPHTHERIA.

Instructions for Infected Dwellings.

1.—At once isolate infected case and where possible place in top room of the house.

2.—Provide one special attendant, with complete set of utensils for nursing.

3.—Strip the room in which patient lies of all carpets and curtains.

4.—Let all the discharges of whatever kind be received on their very issue from the body into a disinfectant, such as Calvert's Powder, Chloride of Lime, Carbolic Acid, or Condy's Fluid, and continue this from the first discovery, or even suspicion of Scarlet Fever, until eight weeks from that date, no matter how much sooner the patient may appear perfectly well, and his skin quite free from any remainder of peeling.

5.—About the fourth day of the eruption, let the surface of the body be well rubbed with Carbolic Oil daily, but only by permission of Medical Attendant.

6.—A large vessel containing Condy's Fluid or Carbolic Acid, in the proportion of from 6 to 8 tablespoonfuls to every gallon of water, should be kept in the room. All bed and body linen, on its removal from the person of the patient, to be immediately placed therein, as the too common habit of carrying the dirty clothing of a Scarlet Fever patient through the kitchen or other room in the house, cannot be too strongly condemned.

7.—An infected dwelling should not be visited by neighbours; a habit much too common, and one to be highly deprecated.

8.—No room (after having been occupied by a Scarlet Fever patient) should be re-occupied until it has been thoroughly disinfected and lime-washed, and if papered, the paper removed.

9.—It is a good plan to place a sheet across the entrance to an infected room, and occasionally saturate the same with a solution of Carbolic and water, same strength as before-mentioned—6 or 8 tablespoonfuls to 1 gallon of water.

10.—Perfect cleanliness, both as to the patient and surroundings, is of the highest importance in any infectious disease.

11.—No food, liquid or solid (having been once in an infected room) should be used by any other person, but if removed, should be disinfected and destroyed.

12.—Under no circumstances should more than one infected person be placed in one bed, and all overcrowding should be carefully avoided.

13.—Disinfectants are supplied gratis upon application to the Inspector of Nuisances, and all infected dwellings will be disinfected by him, after the infectious disease has subsided.

14.—In case of death, the corpse should be thickly covered with Carbolic Powder, and speedily buried.

15.—No child after Scarlet Fever should be allowed to re-enter a school without a Certificate from the Medical Officer of Health or In-

spector of Nuisances, stating that he can do so without risk to others, and this is not usually asked for until the 6th or 8th week be past.

16.—On the recovery or removal of a patient, all floors, walls and ceilings should be fumigated, scraped and cleaned. For fumigating infected rooms and their contents, nothing is better than sulphur. A quarter-of-a-pound of brimstone, broken into small pieces, should be put into an iron dish (or the lid of an iron saucepan turned upside down), supported by a pair of tongs over a bucket of water. The chimney and other openings are then closed with paper pasted on, and a shovelful of live coal is put upon the brimstone. The door is then quickly shut, the crevices covered with paper and paste, and the room kept closed for five or six hours.

17.—After this, a thorough cleansing should be effected; everything washable should be washed, and all other things be cleansed by proper means.

18.—Dogs and cats should in all infectious cases be excluded from the room.

19.—These rules apply to Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria, except that in the latter case the rubbing of the skin with oil is not required.

It is now generally known, under the Infectious Disease Notification Act, that it is compulsory upon both the occupier of the infected dwelling and the Medical Attendant to report an infectious disease to the Medical Officer of Health.

Any further advice of a public character, required for carrying out the above or other Sanitary precautions, will be given on application to the Medical Officer of Health, or Inspector of Nuisances of the District.

SMALLPOX.

Is to be dealt with in all respects like Scarlet Fever, with the substitution of a dressing of charcoal and olive oil, mixed to the consistency of paint, and applied with a brush. Spots kept covered with this will not pit.

MEASLES AND CHICKEN POX.

These can be stopped by keeping the rules for Scarlet Fever, for three weeks. There is no occasion for oiling the skin in any disease but Scarlet Fever, but all eruptive Fevers infect clothing and bed clothing.

THOMAS FISHER,

Medical Officer of Health,

Great Eccleston, Garstang.

Table A. TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1895, in the Rural Sanitary District of Garstang.

Names of Localities.	Mortality from all causes at subjoined ages.								Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing Deaths of Children under Five Years of Age.								
	At all Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards.		Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Whooping Cough.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	TOTAL.
Garstang ...	80	4	11	3	7	18	37	under 5								5	5
								5 upwd	2			5	17	8	3	40	75
Stalmine ...	53	11	4	1	1	14	22	under 5			2		3			8	13
								5 upwd	1			3	12	4		20	40
St. Michael's	46	5	4	2	2	8	25	under 5		1			2			6	9
								5 upwd				1	6	13		17	37
Totals	179	20	19	6	10	40	84	under 5		1	2		5			19	27
								5 upwd	3			9	35	25	3	77	152

Table B. Table of Population, Births, and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1895.

Names of Localities.	Population at all Ages.		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.				
	Census, 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1895.			Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Enteric or Typhoid Fever.	Erysipelas.
Garstang	6134	About the same as 1891.	129	under 5					
				5 upwd		6		3	1
Stalmine	3245		101	under 5					
				5 upwd		2	1		3
St. Michael's ...	2772		65	under 5					
				5 upwd	3	2	1	2	
Totals	12151		295	under 5					
				5 upwd	3	10	2	5	4

COUNTY OF LANCASTER.

Summary of Medical Officer's Report for 1895.

RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT OF GARSTANG.

Area in Statute Acres.....60199. Population, (Census) 1891.....12151
Population, Estimated 1895, about same as 1891.

Name of Medical Officer of Health.....THOMAS FISHER.
Salary, £50 per annum.

Births registered $\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \text{Male} & 154 \\ \text{Female} & 141 \end{array} \right\}$ Total 295		Deaths registered $\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \text{Male} & 103 \\ \text{Female} & 76 \end{array} \right\}$ Total 179
---	--	--

Birth Rate, 24.27. Death Rate, 14.73.

Rate of Infant Deaths, under one year, to 1,000 Births,

Death Rate from the seven principal Zymotic Diseases, per 1,000 of population, .329.

Diseases prevalent :--Chiefly Chest Affections. Period :—During Winter Months

What Action taken?—Nil.

Any Schools Closed?—Nil. If so, for what Disease?—Nil.

What is the Character of the Hospital Accommodation?—Nil.

Is it Joint or otherwise?—Nil. No. of Beds?—Nil.

What were the Cases Treated?—Nil.

Deaths in Hospital :—Nil. From what Causes ?—Nil.

How is Disinfection carried out?—By Fumigation and Carbolic Acid.

Apparatus used ?- Nil.

Is the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act in force?—Yes.

Are any Diseases not specially mentioned in the Act notifiable?—No.

If so, what are they?—Nil.

What is the character of House Accommodation?..... For the labouring classes generally deficient.

Has any action been taken under
"The Housing of the Working
Classes Act, 1890"?..... Not adopted.

Water Supply..... Fylde Water Company and Isolated Wells.

Is Scavenging carried out satisfactorily? In Garstang only.

By Sanitary Authority or Con-	Contract.
tract?	

How is the Refuse disposed of?.. Carted on the land.

What is the character of Drainage and the form of Sewage Disposal? No special form.

Canal Boats Regularly inspected.

What is the condition of the
Bakehouses? Nil.

Slaughter Houses? Regularly inspected.

Lodging Houses? Yes.
Are they Registered? Yes.

Are the Dairies, Cowsheds, and
Milkshops periodically inspected? The Order not adopted.

Have any regulations been made
by your Authority under the
Order of the Local Government
Board?..... No.

Have the Factories and Workshops been inspected, and with what result? Nil.

Can you express any opinion as to the effect of Factory Labour on the Operatives? No.

Sale of Food and Drugs Act	{	No. of Samples Purchased	Nil.
		Prosecutions	Nil.

Food unfit for Human Consumption. Amount seized? Nil.

River Pollution The Calder and Wyre.

Any Special Report of Medical
Officer of Health during the
year? One, re Calder Vale.

Department of Nuisances	Inspector of	{ No. of Notices served.....211
		{ No. of Legal Proceeding taken and result..Nil

Smoke	{ <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Do you suffer from this form of nuisance?.....</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>No. of Observations.....</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>No. of Legal Proceedings taken & result</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Give approximately the number of tall chimneys in connection with mills or large works.....</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Do you suffer from this form of nuisance?.....		No. of Observations.....		No. of Legal Proceedings taken & result		Give approximately the number of tall chimneys in connection with mills or large works.....		} Nil.
Do you suffer from this form of nuisance?.....										
No. of Observations.....										
No. of Legal Proceedings taken & result										
Give approximately the number of tall chimneys in connection with mills or large works.....										

Has the Authority adopted—

(a) "The Infectious Disease Prevention Act, 1890"? Yes.

(b) "The Public Health Acts
Amendment Act, 1890"? No.

